BIOS

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Your President At Work

by Carol Engstrom

Alberta Society of Professional Biologists' J. Dewey Soper Award for 2008

On 28 August 2008 at the Calgary Professional Development Committee's summer event, the Dr J. Dewey Soper Award, was presented to Mr. Peter Sherrington. Below is a brief summary of Peter's accomplishments.

Since moving to Alberta in 1972, Peter Sherrington has been actively involved in wildlife studies and environmental protection. In 1992, Peter was studying mountain bird ecology in the Kananaskis Valley, and became aware of a major Golden Eagle migration through the Front Ranges of the Rocky Mountains. Subsequently, with hundreds of volunteers, Peter has mapped and studied this migration route, spending up to seven months a year at the observation site. He has spoken and written extensively on the migration. During the last decade he has conducted several bird and other wildlife studies in the Mountains, Boreal Forest and Arctic. Peter Sherrington is founder and President of the Rocky Mountain Eagle Research Foundation, editor of the Western Mountains Continental Flyway Region for the journal Hawk Migration Studies, a member of the British Columbia Field Ornithologists and the Raptor Research Foundation, and Past President of the Alberta Wilderness Association. www.eaglewatch.ca

The Golden Eagle migration is now famous around the world and tens of thousands of people have come to witness it. The Canmore Eagle Festival, held each year for two days in the fall, attracts over a thousand participants. School, scout, church and other groups regularly visit the Hay Meadow site to learn about the migration, and members of the general public are always welcomed at the site.

Hundreds of newspaper and magazine articles have been written about the Foundation's work, which has also been featured on radio and television. The Foundation's Research Director, Peter Sherrington, gives up to thirty talks and presentations a year on the subject. In the future, the Foundation will continue to monitor the movement of raptors through the Rocky Mountains. Through its training and education program it plans to develop new observers so that the full extent of the movement can be monitored from the Alberta Foothills west to the Columbia Valley of BC, and from Waterton Lakes National Park north to the Yukon. In 2008 Peter was also the recipient of an Emerald Award.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Sherrington accepting 2008 J. Dewey Soper Award from ASPB President, Carol Engstrom

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Common Birds in Decline

Loss of habitat and insects likely to blame

by Robin Leech

Common birds are in decline across the world, says The State of the World's Birds, which was released on Monday, 22 September 2008, at Birdlife International's World Conference in Buenos Aires.

Twenty of North America's most common bird species declined more than 50% over the last 40 years, sending a strong and clear signal that there is something wrong with the basic health of our environment. A likely cause is changes to habitat, both in the breeding grounds in Canada and in the wintering grounds further south.

In Alberta, one of the first heralds of spring, the Killdeer, is quietly disappearing. Its numbers have dropped an annual average of 2.5% since 1968, reported Jon McCracken, the director of national programs for Bird Studies in Canada. The Northern Pintail, one of the puddle ducks, has dropped an average of 4.5% annually since 1968. Some of the formerly common boreal breeders that are declining are the Evening Grosbeak, the Greater Scaup, and the Boreal Chickadee.

McCracken said that while scientists do not often know exactly what is driving the bird decline, his gut feeling is that in the Prairies, loss of insects as food is responsible. Grassland birds in Alberta - Red-winged Blackbirds, Bobolinks and Western Meadowlarks - are dwindling. There are declines in swallows, nighthawks, martins and others that feed on insects.

McCracken said "Declines were present probably from four decades ago, but then all of a sudden you're seeing a much more pronounced decline, especially in the last decade or two. So whatever is happening out there is accelerating, which is not a good thing."

The Fish and Wildlife Division of Alberta Sustainable Resources Development reviews the status of wildlife species in Alberta every five years, said Dave Ealey, a department spokesman. Ealey said that trends seen in a broader geographic area, such as across Canada, may not match what is seen in subset areas such as Alberta. Whereas the Boreal Chickadee was assessed as secure in the 2005 review, Northern Pintail and Bobolinks did show up as sensitive.

Today, one in eight bird species is threatened with extinction. For the full Wildlife International report, go to: www.birdlife.org/sowb

Source: Brooymans, Hanneke, Edmonton Journal reporter. Article titled "Common birds in decline: study. Loss of habitat, insects likely to blame." Edmonton Journal, 23 September 2008, page B6

The ASPB Mentoring Program

What it's About and How to Get Involved
by Marilyn Collard

No greater gift can professionals give than their knowledge. Those who give it freely can proudly call themselves mentors. (L. Shrimpton)

The ASPB developed the Mentoring Program as a free service for the benefit of its membership. The Program is designed and structured to ensure that lifelong learning is available to every ASPB member regardless of current career stage. The intent of the Program is to match people with others who can provide them with information, ongoing advice and/or training.

The Program is available to any active members who think they can benefit from the experiences of their colleagues. This includes students, biologists-in-training, and regular members.

In the Program, the Mentor is defined as a person who willingly shares knowledge, skills and expertise with the Mentee. The Mentee is the individual who receives the knowledge, skills or expertise of the Mentor. Furthermore, Mentoring is defined as the formal passing or transfer of knowledge, skills or expertise through appropriate goals, objectives and activities. Any ASPB member can register in the Mentoring Program as a Mentor, a Mentee, or both, depending on his/her needs.

One of the main strengths of the ASPB's Mentoring Program is that it is individually tailored by the participants so that it meets current needs. Members of the Program self-select their own Mentors or Mentees using the ASPB website or by other means *(e.g.,* contacting known ASPB members from the workplace or other connections). Once a participant identifies a partner and confirms compatibility, the Mentee and Mentor work together to establish the Mentee's goals, objectives and action items in a written contract. In the contract, participants outline their availability and meeting schedule; the roles of the Mentor; goals, objectives, action items, and success indicators; methods of documentation; safety issues; confidentiality issues; and other expectations. Participants are asked to commit to a one year contract to provide sufficient time to achieve set goals.

Visit the ASPB website (www.aspb.ab.ca/mentoring) for more information or to register for the Mentoring Program. Once registered for the Program as a Mentor or a Mentee, an individual can view the pool lists of available partners. Information on each participant includes specialization, practice area and location. Participants are encouraged to contact potential partners to ensure compatibility and similar areas of interest prior to pairing. There is no obligation to commit to a pairing. Program benefits and Mentoring resources also can be found on the website.

Mentoring is a bridge to sustainable excellence. Ask yourself: Am I Mentoring? Whom should I be Mentoring? Get involved. Contact Marilyn Collard, the Mentoring Coordinator, at mentoring@aspb.ab.ca or (403) 256-1902 for additional information.

The Whisky-Jack Club

by Beth MacCallum

The Whisky-jack Club is a naturalist club formed in Hinton last year to develop a bird list for our new beaver boardwalk. The boardwalk consists of a 1.3 km walk through a wetland and around a beaver pond, and features interpretative signs, an outdoor classroom and an observation tower. West Fraser Mills and the Rotary Club raised money for the lumber and the Town contributed use of its backhoe. All other work has been done by volunteers. There is one more loop to construct next winter. The Whisky-jacks have taken on other activities, *i.e.,* butterfly counts, fall Hawk Watch from Yellowhead Tower, Christmas Bird Counts, June bird walks, hosting events supporting environmental education, and sponsoring a wildlife series. I started off the wildlife series last winter with a presentation on Bighorn Sheep (35 people showed up), followed by Karen Graham talking about Amphibians (75 people showed up including lots of kids). The presentations are held in the new wing of the library which has a room outfitted with the latest AV equipment. I am putting the schedule together for speakers next fall and winter. Please contact me if you are interested in giving a presentation.

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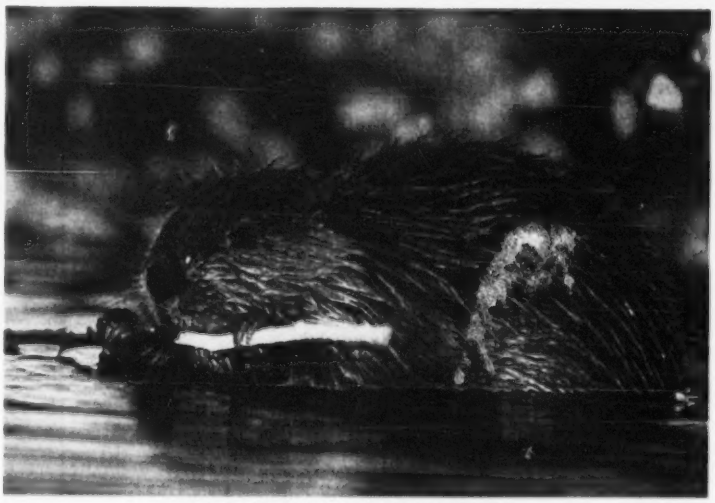


Photo Credit: Michael S. Quinton

Dr. M. Anne Naeth – Down to Earth

Dr. Naeth is a Professor at the University of Alberta in the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences, holding joint appointments with the Departments of Renewable Resources and Agriculture, Food and Nutritional Science. She previously worked with both government and industry. She is Chair of the Environmental and Conservation Sciences Degree Program and holds a Vargo Distinguished Teaching Chair at the University of Alberta.

Anne holds a BSc in biology, a double MSc in soil science and plant science (land reclamation) and a PhD in plant science (range science). Her areas of research include ecology, land reclamation, revegetation, restoration and environmental assessment.

Anne has received numerous awards for her teaching, research and community service including: Alumni Award of Excellence, Killam Annual Professorship, Teaching Wall of Fame, Rutherford Award of Excellence for Undergraduate Teaching, NACTA Teaching Award, Faculty Teaching Award, 3M Teaching Fellowship (top 10 professors in Canada), Distinguished Agrologist Award, Environmental Sustainability Award (Knowledge Builder) and the Canadian Land Reclamation Association Noranda Land Reclamation Award for outstanding contributions to the field of land reclamation.

Anne has served on the executives of numerous professional organizations, editorial boards and expert advisory boards. She is Past President of the Canadian Society of Soil Science and the Canadian Land Reclamation Association, a past Associate Editor for the Journal of Range Management and is currently a member and mediator with the Alberta Environmental Appeals Board. She is currently co-chairing a working group to develop a classification system for reclaimed soils.

Anne has authored over 200 publications and supervised over 50 graduate students. Her research program is both theoretical and applied, centered in land reclamation and ecological restoration. It focuses on plant-soil-water interrelationships, understanding and defining processes inherent in these relationships, their effects on ecosystem structure and function, their response to disturbance and their role in reclamation after disturbance. Her research takes place on lands mainly disturbed by human use; lands impacted by natural resource development such as pipelines, mines, well sites, quarries and roadways; lands used for agriculture, grazing, forestry and recreation; national parks and protected areas; contaminated and abandoned lands. Her research program focuses on remediation, revegetation and soil reconstruction techniques; accelerating soil-plant community development; plant species selection and establishment; impacts of introduced agronomic species on native plant communities; slope stabilization; mycorrhizae in native plant establishment; soil remediation and phytoremediation; soil amendments, particularly waste products such as compost, manure, sewage sludge and biosolids; and environmental assessment and monitoring.

Calgary teen finds MSG slows brain cell growth

by Robin Leech

A17-year-old Calgary high school student, Michelle Ah-Seng, is preparing to publish a groundbreaking study that links a popular food additive, Monosodium Glutamate (MSG), to reduced brain cells of snails. This work could have major implications for children's health.

It has been shown that, in a pregnant woman, MSG will cross through the placenta to affect the fetus. In a fetus, the brain cells are starting to grow, and starting to reach out to connect with one another. If MSG has been inhibiting or stunting growth, then the cells will not reach one another.

The project involved directly dosing brain cells culled from snails with a concentration of MSG equal to what might be found in human blood or cerebral spinal fluid after eating a meal containing MSG. Not only did the MSG inhibit growth of the snails' brain cells, it also limited communication between them. The implications for human health are not hard to infer, as there is no difference between a snail brain cell and that of a rat or a human brain cell – only that there are fewer of them, and that they are larger.

Ah-Seng's supervisor, Dr Naweeed Syed, a neuroscientist with the Hotchkiss Brain Institute at the University of Calgary's Faculty of Medicine, said "That this is the first unequivocal evidence, to my knowledge, that links MSG to direct effect on neuronal ability."

Source: Article by Michelle Magnan, Calgary, Herald. Published in the Edmonton Journal, Friday, 15 August 2008, page B6.

ARTICLES WANTED

We are always looking for artifles to put in the BIOS newsletter. If you have a story or an issue you would like to share with your fellow professionals, please submit it to lindazim@shaw.ca.

The Continuing Story of Water Shortage

by Robin Leech

In the last issue of BIOS, I prepared an article on Virtual Water – A Better Way to Think About Water Use (BIOS 23, #2: 6). So, when the July/August 2008 issue of Canadian Geographic came out with an article titled, The Big Thirst (pages 40-56), and August 2008 issue of Scientific American came out with an article titled, Facing the Freshwater Crisis (pages 46-55), it came as no surprise to me.

The surprise for me is that these journals have international reputations and distributions, and that no one, even in an election year in either the Unites States or Canada, is picking up on the issue of water shortage as an important political, national and international issue. The issue is for the present and the future. The pressures are from a combination of climate change and human population growth, and in the absence of political and societal concerns to save water, there will be water scarcity far and wide, and not just in North America. Interestingly, as people come to have more money, they use more water.

There are a number of real and practical solutions:
1. Charge More for Water. Freshwater in the United States and other economic powers has been traditionally priced so low that users have had little incentive to save it.
2. Conserve Irrigation Water. Farm irrigation uses tremendous quantities of water. A 10% drop in irrigation water use would save more than is used by all other consumers. Plug leaks in the irrigation water-delivery systems; bank more water underground to limit evaporation; apply drip-water irrigation systems; and modify crops to use less moisture.
3. Adapt Low-Water Sanitation systems. Urban and suburban sanitation services use a lot of water, some 100 cubic km worldwide. Use low-water toilets. Recycle "grey" water.
4. Monitor "Virtual Water" Shipments.
5. Exploit Advanced Desalination Technology. Though desalination of sea water is still very expensive and energy consuming, new, lower-cost desalination plants could supply water to coastal populations.

We should adopt the motto used in the northwestern part of the United States in the early 90s. It went this way:

If it's yellow,
Leave it mellow.
If it's brown,
Flush it down.

We have to do something, and we have to start now, not when the crisis hits.

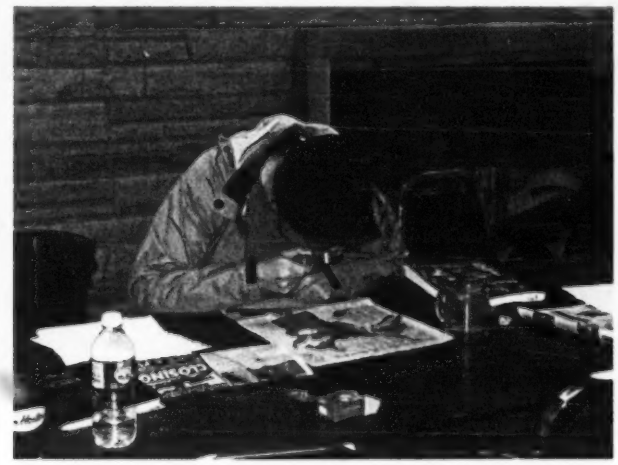
ASPB 2008 Introductory Plant Identification Workshop

by Laurie Hamilton

On Saturday, May 24, 2008, Mari Decker, Amy Folden and Laurie Hamilton delivered the ASPB Introductory Plant Identification Workshop. The workshop was held in Fish Creek Provincial Park at the Environmental Learning Centre. The majority of participants were biologists working for consulting companies and industry. Despite the drizzle, which most likely served as an introduction to the field season for many of the participants, the workshop went off without a hitch.

The workshop consisted of a practical and theoretical introduction to vascular plant identification. Focus was on learning morphology and terminology, and using taxonomic keys and field guides to learn species of a few main plant families in Alberta. This course was designed for people with little or no plant identification experience, and for those who wanted to refresh their taxonomy and terminology.

Diligent participants got up close and personal, despite the drizzle. Photo credit: L. Hamilton



The workshop consisted of a combination of in-class and outdoor training. Photo credit: L. Hamilton

Snow Goose Chase 2008

by Bob Parsons

The Public Buses

The annual Snow Goose Chase, held the last weekend of April, was a terrific success as usual. Five buses of inner-city school children and two buses for the paying public were all full on Saturday, all ably led by very experienced tour guides along with their assistants. The weather cooperated and conditions around Beaverhill Lake were pretty good, considering the snowfall we all experienced the week before. Many of the local lakes and sloughs were still frozen, but our scouts managed to find some good patches of open water in the run-up to the weekends activities.

The buses from downtown usually stop at Hastings Lake on their way out to Tofield to view the heronry and identify the migrating waterfowl, but the lake was still frozen so all buses made their way directly to the Nature Centre in Tofield where complimentary coffee and snacks were served. Time was spent viewing the many exhibits set up and the museum put on a short guided tour around the artifacts.

All participants then took a 45 minute bus ride south of the highway to spot the swans, ducks and hawks moving through the area. A Great-horned Owl, on nest, had been scouted out and everyone got a good look through the scopes set up by the volunteers. One bus managed to spot two Peregrine Falcons hunting down some Pintails, whilst the other bus tracked down good numbers of Tundra Swans feeding in the frozen fields.

Then, it was onto the community hall, where the Chase organizers had put on many attractions for the busloads of inner city school children. The Valley Zoo had brought their hawks and owls exhibit, 5 birds in total, and all got to see some of the hawks in flight inside the hall!! The Beaverhill Bird Observatory had a live Burrowing Owl on display and many had their photo taken with this terrific fellow! The Royal Alberta Museum had a table with various tropical spiders and scorpions, as well as a snake or two. Kristie from Alberta Environment was busy explaining how a watershed is formed, Don Delaney had an excellent bird slide display and various club members organized a bugs and beetles ID session. I found this very educational and during the morning session, all children present seemed to be having a great time! Thanks should go to Dan and Mike for this entertaining display.

The Trefrey's Burrowing Owl was very popular!
Photo Credit: Gerald Romanchuk

Then it was onto the Tofield Legion for the usual lunch buffet and a brief talk by Hugh Campbell on the history of Beaverhill Lake. Hugh was instrumental in getting the lake the recognition it deserves, so everyone was interested in what he had to say.

Then, it was time to get on the bus again and go look for the snow geese which had been scouted out by Bob Gehlert, a local Lindbrook resident. There were several other birders keeping an eye open for us, so it was not too tough finding the snowies that were in the Ryley dump area! Stops were also made at the Amisk Creek bridge where birders spotted Bufflehead, Common Merganser, Goldeneye, various other ducks and a Great Blue Heron.

Kallal meadow was not flooded this year by Ducks Unlimited, but many hawks were seen as well as a Northern Harrier. The DU slough east of Amisk Creek saw plenty of duck activity and good views of Redhead, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup and Ring-necked Duck were obtained. Tundra Swans and Greater White-fronted Geese flew overhead and Sandhill Cranes were heard in the distant skies. It didn't take too long to find the snow geese which were being harassed by a mature Bald Eagle. I estimated there were over ten thousand in the Ryley area, and my good friend Curtis saw similar numbers up the east side of the lake.

So a wonderful time for all participants and many thanks must go to the sponsors who make the Chase such a success. No space to mention them all here but a full list will be entered on the Nature Club's website.

See you all again next year!

Bob Parsons, Snow Goose Chase Coordinator for the Edmonton Nature Club

The object of the Chase - Snow Geese!

The Kids Buses

Inner-city school children, Big Brothers and Sisters, CrystalKids, Uncles-at-Large, Oliver School and Artstart... all enjoyed a great day out on the Chase! 5 buses were all pretty well full with parents, volunteers, chaperones and overflow from the Percy Page buses.

The five buses were sponsored by Enbridge, LeHigh Inland Cement, Epcor, the Rotary Club of Edmonton and our own club, the Edmonton Nature Club. An imaginative mix on all the buses and all took part in the many interactive displays and exhibits that were set up at the Nature Centre, the community hall, as well as at Francis Viewpoint (thanks Ray) and at Kallal Meadow. Hawks and Owls from the Valley Zoo, The Burrowing Owl from the Trefreys, Alberta Environment watershed display, spiders and snakes from the Royal Alberta Museum, bird slide show courtsey of Don Delaney and of course Dan and Mike with their terrific interactive bugs and water beetles set-up. All were very educational and full of interest for everyone present.

Many happy moments were recorded by Gerald Romanchuk, except he missed Jim Lange getting through another huge pile of mashed spuds!! My helpers ensured that all buses has enough snacks, water and juice, and the games and quizzes looked entertaining. Extra funding for the many packed lunches came from Synergy,UMC Financial, Enbridge and our good friends at Cummings, Andrews, McKay.....always a great benefactor of our club. Ducks Unlimited provided 200 bottles of water and Champion Foods donated the same amount of fruit juice packs.

Highlights of the afternoon bus run included a Great-horned Owl on nest, large numbers of hawks and many migrating waterfowl. Snow Geese were hard to pin down this year but the large numbers of swans seen made up for the snowie absence. Not very many Sandhill Cranes were spotted this year, but it was a pretty fair afternoon of birding.

A big thank you must go to the teams on the 5 buses. Many wonderful volunteers from previous years who helped to train the rookies! There is a list of all volunteers posted elsewhere but special thanks to Brenda, Claudia, Dale, Ingrid and the Tully`s. Lynn Chandler kept the volunteeer list up to date and did most of the computer admin stuff. Fred Martin scoured St Albert for all kinds of goodies, hope you are back next year Fred! Jim led a team of scouts and door prizes were donated by the Wildbird General Store, F.A.N and Lone Pine Publishing.

All-in-all a wonderful day-out for everyone. Prices are going up everywhere, so thank you sponsors for all your financial help.

Children check out the bugs at Dan & Mike's display.
Photo Credit: Gerald Romanchuk

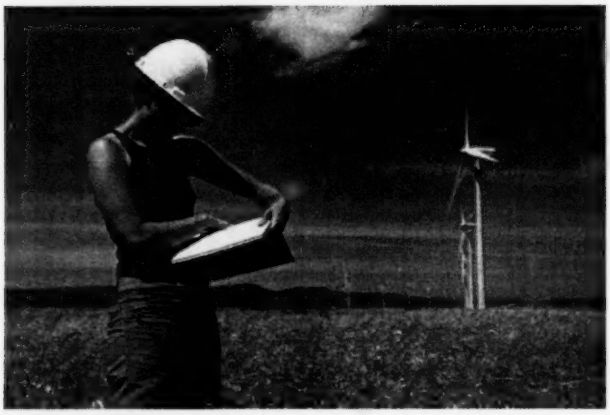
We will be back next year!!
Bob Parsons, Snow Goose Chase Co-ordinator

The Volunteers

Claudia Bolli.
Katie Cameron.
Hugh Campbell.
Bob Parsons.
Gerald Romanchuk.
Lynn Chandler.
Jean Chapman.
Ray Cromie.
Dale Dawson
Fred Dawson.
Peter Demulder.
Andrew Forrest.
Stan Gosche.
Ted Hindmarch.
Angela Hobson.
Rachel Hofman.
John Dmytrow.
Don Delaney.
Rob Hughes.
Mike Jenkins.
Pat Jones.
Steve Knight.
Janos Kovacs.
Jim Lange.
Jaye Lee.
Michelle Manley
Curtis Manley.
Laura Marini.
Fred Martin.
Logan McCloud.
Dennis Miller.
Jim Morrison.
Stuart Morrison.
Carrie Nugent.
Robert Oakley.
Jack Park.
Lisa Priestley.
Lance Steinke.
Stephen Symes.
Nik Romaniuk.
Brenda Shaughnessy.
Dan Stoker.
Phil Trefrey.
Karen Tully
MarvinTully.
Carmen von Conrad.
Eric Wallace.
Caitlin Willier
Vivian Willier.
Ingrid Yukes.
Linda Zimmerling.
Alana Broomfield.
Robin Brown.
Bob Gehlert.
Treva Piekema.

Bats and Wind Turbines

By Erin Baerwald



Erin entering data at a wind energy site in southwestern Alberta
Photo Credit: Monty Nicol

I ventured into the bat world as a field assistant for Cori Lausen, a PhD candidate in Dr. Robert Barclay's lab, in 2003. I was hooked within days. I continued working as a field assistant the following two summers. I realized early on in the work that I wanted to pursue a Master's in the bat lab, but really wanted something interdisciplinary and applied. As I was starting my Masters in the fall of 2005, I suddenly had an applied issue to study: bats and wind energy.

In 2003, large numbers of bats had been found under the turbines at Mountaineer Wind Resource Area during avian carcass searches. A more intensive study followed the next year, with researchers finding approximately 2,000 dead bats over the six-week period of fall migration. Nothing like this had been reported before, but since then, high fatality rates of migratory-bats have been reported at various wind energy sites across North America. In Alberta, bat fatality rates were historically less than 1 bat/turbine/year. In the fall of 2005, researchers began to find migratory bats under the turbines at the newly developed Summerview Windfarm. TransAlta Wind (the owners/operators of Summerview), Dr. Barclay, and I then began researching the issue of bats and wind energy in Alberta.

During our study in 2006, I began to notice that a large number of the bat carcasses we were finding did not appear to have any external injuries that one would expect if a small bat were hit by large, quickly moving turbine blades. Although some of the bats looked as though they had been struck by the blades (broken wings, lacerations, etc.), others were perfectly intact externally and appeared to be sleeping under the turbines. There was an existing hypothesis that bats were being killed by sudden pressure drops near the turbine blades, but this hypothesis had not been thoroughly investigated. In 2007 we began to necropsy freshly killed bats. We found that 46% of the 188 freshly killed bats had no external injuries, but that 90% of 75 necropsied bats had internal haemorrhaging consistent with barotrauma. Barotrauma is tissue damage to any air-containing structures caused by rapid or excessive pressure change. As bats near the moving turbine blades, they encounter a sudden pressure drop of approximately 5-10 kPa. This drop in pressure is significant enough to cause the alveoli and capillaries to rupture and fill the lungs with blood, thus killing the bat.

Although barotrauma helps explain why bats are being killed at some wind energy installations, it does not affect the number of bats killed nor address the issue of why bats are at wind turbines in the first place. Future research into the bat and wind energy issue should focus on the potential attraction of bats to wind turbines and mitigation strategies. In addition to the applied questions related to migratory bats and wind energy, we need more information on the basic biology of migratory bats. We do not know what impact fatalities of migratory bats at wind turbines is having on migratory-bat populations because we don't know the population sizes of the species affected. I am currently in the early stages of my PhD with Dr. Barclay at the University of Calgary where I plan to address some basic migration ecology questions: who is migrating (population genetics of migratory bats), where are they going/where are they from (origins and destinations), and how do they find their way (the use of landscape features in navigation)? Stay tuned!

Biography

Although I was born and raised throughout North-eastern Saskatchewan, I did most of my growing up in Saskatoon. I graduated from Marion M. Graham Collegiate Institute in 1994 and then took the following four years off. I attended the University of Saskatchewan in 1998 and 1999, just long enough to get a taste for biology. In 2000, I moved to Edmonton and entered the Department of Renewable Resources at the University of Alberta. In 2005, I graduated with a degree in Environmental and Conservation Sciences and went on to pursue a Masters in Ecology at the University of Calgary. I am now a PhD candidate in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Calgary studying migration ecology. Other than batting, I enjoy photography, traveling, reading, and quilting.

Letters to the Editor

If you have any feedback regarding previous BIOS editions, please email them to lindazim@shaw.ca.

Biological Limerick

A research professor named Renée,
Cloned people from ape DNA.
The project went well,
As anyone can tell,
'Cause they're all in Parliament today.